Maintenance of National Highway 55 in West Bengal

2479. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware regarding the problems faced by National Highway No. 55 which connects Darjeeling Hills with the plans of Bengal, due to the lack of proper attention from the authorities in respect of maintenance, repairs, and developments; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take for the solution of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Development and Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available funds. National Highway No. 55 is occasionally affected by land slides during the rains. Immediate steps are taken to restore the traffic by carrying out necessary repairs. The overall allotment of funds for maintenance and repaires of all National Highways including NH 55 is to extent of 50—55% of the requirements only.

Commercial potentiality of unused land in various Ports

2480. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large tracts of land belonging to various ports of the country are at present lying unused;

(b) if so, their area, port-wise;

(c) whether Government have estimated the commercial potentiality of these land if so details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to issue necessary directions to the various port authorities of the country in this regard; and

(e) if so, when and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The lands belonging to various Major Port Trusts are developed in phased manner keeping in view the growth of traffic and need for expansion of port facilities and related infrastructure. Depending upon the location, suitability and requirements of the port, pockets are identified by various Major Port Trusts from time to time for commercial exploitation. The Calcutta Port Trust has identified about 81 acres of land in the erstwhile Calcutta Jetty area on Strand Road and Boat Canal area for commercial development.

(d) and (e) The Government has issued a set of policy guidelines regarding the land management at Major Ports on 31-3-1982.

Construction of Express Highways in Maharashtra

2481. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometres of Express Highways will be constructed in Maharashtra under the proposed new scheme of constructing such Express Highways;

(b) what are the broad areas from which these highways would go in Maharashtra; and

(c) by when this proposed scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members have it mind the taking up of Express ways under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme, through private sector participation. An Asian Development Bank assisted study was carried out in 1991-92, according to which about 10,000 km length has been suggested for construction in the country including the State of Maharashtra, in phases by the year 2015. The scheme is still in an embryonic stage.

Four-laning the Jallandhar-Amritsar Highway

2482. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of on going work of four-laning of Jallandhar-Amritsar highway;

(b) by when it is scheduled for completion;

(c) whether Government are considering to make four-lane the Delhi-Amritsar highway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER): (a) There is no proposal for widening to 4-lane of Jaliandhar—Amritsar Highway at this stage.